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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 OES-09 DODE-00 IO-13
COME-00 TRSE-00 HEW-04 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 AID-05 FAA-00 CAB-02 DOTE-00 /064 W
----------094680 201306Z /44
R 191226Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9021
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2946

SANTO DOMINGO FOR AGATT

DEPARTMENT PASS TO AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR, HA
SUBJECT: AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 3712

1. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE JULY 17 OUTLINING QUARANTINE MEASURES DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF AFRICAN SWIN FEVER IN HAITI. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TOLD THE EMBASSY'S ECON OFFICER THAT HE HAS INITIATED A PROGRAM TO ISOLATE AREAS ALONG THE DOMINICAN BORDER FROM THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF SOLDIERS, MILITIA, AND STUDENTS WILL BE SENT TO THE BORDER TO ENFORCE THE QUARANTINE, HE SAID THAT HE APPRECIATES USDA'S OFFER TO TEST TISSUE FROM SICK HOGS AT THE PLUMB ISLAND LABORATORY AND WILL CALL ON US IF NECESSARY.

2. DESPITE THE COMMUNIQUE'S ASSERTION THAT HAITI IS "SAFE, THUS FAR", THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF HOGS ARE DYING AT THREE DIFFERENT AREAS IN HAITI:
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FOND PARISIEN IN THE CUL DE SAC NEAR PORT AU PRINCE, ALONG THE PEDERNALES RIVER IN THE EXTREME SOUTHEAST, AND IN THE LES CAYES AREA IN THE SOUTHWEST. INASMUCH AS HAITIAN SWINE PRODUCERS RARELY VACCINATE THEIR PIGS AGAINST HOG CHOLERA, HIGH MORTALITY RATES ARE COMMON, AND THE SYMPTOMS OF AFRICAN FEVER ARE SIMILAR, IT IS LIKELY THAT AFRICAN SWINE FEVER ALREADY IS WIDESPREAD IN HAITI AND THE GOVERNMENT EITHER DOESN'T KNOW IT OR REFUSES TO ADMIT IT.

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NEVERTHELESS, WE EXPECT THAT THE GOH WILL SOON REALIZE THAT IT HAS
A SERIOUS PROBLEM, NEEDS HELP AND WILL ASK FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. THE EMBASSY IS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE GOH TO
COLLECT TISSUE SAMPLES FROM DISEASED HOGS FOR TESTING AT PLUMB ISLAND
BUT SO FAR, HAITI IS MAINTAINING THAT THERE AREN'T ANY SICK HOGS.
THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT USDA TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES AT PORTS
OF ENTRY AS WE SHOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE OUR SWINE INDUSTRY WHILE HAITI
SLOWLY GEARS ITSELF UP TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM. THE MAIN PORTS OF
ENTRY FOR AIRCRAFT ARE MIAMI, NEW YORK AND SAN JUAN. SHIPS ENTER
AT VARIOUS EAST AND GULF COAST PORTS.
MEADE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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